



ARENA REPORT



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Welcome to another edition of "AR" here in hot, hot, and hotter Florida. I shouldn't complain. I just turned down an escape route. The branch of the company I work for contacted me and wanted me to move back to Connecticut for more money. (Would make a good angle.) But the move would have had to been made to soon so we could never have sold our house in time. Really wasn't the time to go back anyway. Have pretty much settled into the life down here except that I can't stand the summers. But a move 2-3 years down the road does seem likely. Well, let's see. I was giving serious thought to going weekly starting in '92 due to the material that I've had the last few issues. (This one being no exception.) But at this time, my schedule just couldn't handle it. I've been walking around like a zombie the past couple of weeks. Someday though. Finally, let's get to the issue. We lead off with part 1 of an interview that was conducted with Eddy Mansfield on July 15. (Yes, the day after that tremendous Bash we all saw.) It will either run in two or three parts depending on space. He was very candid (almost too candid) and I think you'll enjoy it. Also in this round we have Scott Hudson with 2 features. One is his usual "Georgia Wrestling Journal" and the other is his GWF Viewpoints. And to those who have asked, yes, Scott is the same guy who does the color on ESPN. How long he can continue to write for this sheet is anyone's guess but Scott has promised me he won't be going anywhere. Klon has some pro-Flair words to speak in his mushroom I'm sure. Marianne Ryan has some tidbits from the big Titan card that took place in St. Louis on 7/14. Dr. Mike Lano appears with a special column called "We Have Seen Enough". "Ramblings" will be scattered throughout this issue and they will be labeled as such.

Next issue will be cover dated August 5 and will have part two of the Mansfield interview. (Almost sounds like Manson) But not in personality Eddy. We'll also have alive report from the WWF in Orlando on 8/3. A look at the next IWF tapings which will be held 7/27. Evan Ginzburg, Mike Terry, and Scott will also return with their respective columns.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly and cost \$1.00 per issue. A label on your envelope indicates how many issues you have remaining on your subscription. All renewals, letters, and match results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Lets' go to the "Continental Lover's" School of Pro Wrestling for the interview.

INTRODUCTION

Eddy Mansfield's wrestling career spanned from 1976-1985. He wrestled throughout the United States and Canada winning numerous regional titles. In 1985 after a run in with Ole Anderson, Eddy went on ABC news program 20/20 and exposed the business. He disappeared from the scene until late last year opening his school and recently launched his own promotion, the IWF which was profiled a couple of issues back. In this interview, Eddy talks about his career, the 20/20 show, his view on newsletters, and the Iwf among other topics. Hope you enjoy.

EDDY MANSFIELD INTERVIEW

RL- How did you get your start in pro wrestling?

EM- It was in 1976 with the help of Terry Funk.

RL- So Funk trained you.

EM- Well, what I did was I really broke in through another guy and really, I was self taught and so what happened was, Terry Funk was the guy who refined me. You know, that's the difference in the way the old timers do it and the same way I teach now. I take guys and when I break them in, I refine them. And Terry Funk refined me and taught me how to draw money in this business and have the talent that I had for as many years as I was in the business. So I credit Terry with all my success in the business. Because he taught me rights from wrongs and to stand up for yourself and do certain things and there's nothing that needs to be said that I'm going to stand up for myself.

RL- What territories have you worked in?

EM- Every major organization in existence I've worked for. Some of my best

territories was Los Angeles. At the time that was a combination of NWA and WWF. That's when alot of guys would stop in from Japan and go back and forth they would stop in and work the territory. So I had a good run in L.A. And then San Antonio. Southwest Championship Wrestling. I had a real good run there. We were affiliated with the AWA and the NWA, yeah, I had a good run in Atlanta. I can't say no even though it was alot of heartache all the time. It was appain in the ass dealing with Ole Anderson which 50 or 60 other guys will tell you. And Tampa. Tampa was really good. I always liked Eddie Graham. Eddie and myself always got along really well and I learned alot of the inside of the business listening to Eddie. You know, alot of people tend to not have nice things to say about Eddie Graham but I think that's more of a jealousy standpoint than really actually looking at what Eddie Graham achieved in wrestling which was a tremendous amount of respect. A few other territories I worked. I use to go up to Canada for the summer and work the Bearman for a couple months. You know Dave McKigney. He was killed with Adrian Adonis and the Kelly Twins. I use to go up there and work for him because I liked him. Of course I worked in Detroit. We got Detroit cooking pretty good when I was working for Eddie Farhat, the Sheik. You know, Sheik was always good to me and he's notorious for the things he's done but the Sheik was always pretty good with me.

RL- Looking at your wall here in the office there's a picture of you with Tully Blanchard from your days in San Antonio.

EM- Yeah, ole Preacher Tully.

RL- Did it surprise you when you heard that Tully had "found religion"?

EM- (Laughs) Yeah, knowing Tully, yeah but I'll put it to you straight. Maybe a guy can change. Tully was a self centered prick. He was the death of Southwest Championship Wrestling. Because he was an egomaniac type guy and maybe religion helped him. I just hope he doesn't turn out to be another Jim Baker or Jimmy Swaggert. Because Tully always loved the ladies alot and loved the nose candy. That's what got him in trouble and you've got to seperate the two. And if he's real about it, hey, the good Lord is the best guy you can have on your side.

RL- Now did you leave Southwest Championship Wrestling before they hoaked up with USA Network?

EM- We were the first wrestling group on USA at the time. I just don't think Joe Blanchard had the foresight or the knowledge to handle an entity such as USA and he didn't really know what he had. He kind of let his son and you know, nothing bad or, but this is the damn truth that Tully Blanchard was the death of Southwest Championship Wrestling.

RL- Now in L.A. you worked with the Guerrero's and Roddy Piper.

EM- Yeah, I worked for Mike Lebell.

RL- How was it working with them?

EM- Working with those guys? Great. Like I've always said. I love wrestlers. Wrestlers are my buddies. Some I like more than others but then again you know, wrestling is wrestling and you got to judge a guy upon the way he treats you. I have never had a bit of problem with any wrestlers in the business. I've always been the type of guy to stand up and say that if something wasn't right. You know, I said it. It got me in a little trouble a few times but you know, the truth hurts. The truth absolutely kills people. They want you to tap them on the back and candy coat everything and say, "Oh wow, are you a superstar" or your this or this. When your really just a piece of shit. Without wrestling fans or without fans in general of any sport you wouldn't be anything. If you respect the people that make you money. I'm talking from a promotion standpoint now. If you respect the guys that make you the money, those guys will go to the ends of the earth and do anything that needs to be done for you. But if you disrespect those guys and in the revelations that are looking up Atlanta way, you can see. There's no dedication left. When you lose that heart and that drive that makes the machine go, the machine is going to break down and that's what is happening.

RL- What was your highpoint of working Atlanta?

EM- We drew 100 something thousand dollars in the Omni. It was Austin (Idol) and myself, Kevin Sullivan and Steve O. Do you remember Steve O?

RL- Yeah, Steve Olsonowski. It's hard to believe he made it big in Atlanta.

EM- Right place at the right time.

RL- Next thing I'm going to ask you, I know it's a subject you've heard alot about since you came back in the business and your tired of hearing about it. I'd be remiss in not asking you. I don't know if you've had an open forum since 1985 to let people know how you felt about what happened, why it happened, so forth and so on. Care to shed any light on that topic at all?

EM- Oh, the 20/20 topic.

RL- How did you know? (Laugh) heh, heh.

EM- Hey, they all forget what kind of career I had. You look through all this press here and you see that I was in the top ten most hated so that's nothing new to me. In every major magazine in the country. When your in

the top ten or listed in the top ten as a wrestler that's quite an honor. Because not only the magazines recognize you but your peers recognize you as being good at what you do. And 20/20 came about because of Ole Anderson, that pig faced son of a bitch. You know, here I am making alot of money and they want me to sign this exclusive contract in Atlanta and he wanted to take a percentage of my money. Then you had the _ up there Jim Barnett. There's something about me that...you know, I was making alot of money in San Anton at the time and I was going in and doing show in Atlanta. I didn't see where I needed to sign shit, point blank. I don't need to sign anything. You couldn't pay me the money Joe Blanchard was paying me in Texas. You know, one thing about Joe was he always paid. He stole alot of money but he paid. When you get on the subject of 20/20...you know, I did 20/20 because Ole Anderson told me he was going to blackball me and I told him that if he blackballed me I'd go on national television and expose his business. I always told people that it doesn't matter that I went on 20/20. I helped the business. As you noticed in any article that you've ever read that I've ever been interviewed, that I've always put wrestlers up on a pedestal and I had a problem with promoters. I have problems with people in general that don't treat their fellow man decent like they would like to be treated. I do have a problem with that. Ole Anderson is well known in this industry as screwing people. What comes around goes around. As far as 20/20, I gave up my wrestling career for that. To make a statement that I believe that wrestlers work hard for their money and that they're not paid enough for that. So it wasn't me in general exposing anything. Who am I against a Dusty Rhodes who exposed the business in Florida or a Vince McMahon who did it in the state of New Jersey. When everybody writes or talks about that, hell, why don't they look at all the good I've done for wrestling. Not just one fifteen minute spot that I did on national TV that made the wrestlers money that they're making today. If it wasn't for me, they wouldn't make this money. Because I shined the light. It's like when you go in a junkyard. You shine the light on the big fat rats and they go and run and hide. So when the spotlight got on those promoters, they had to fess up then and that's good because I'm on the other spectrum now and when we get started drawing big money here in the IWF, my guys are going to make good money. They're going to make big money. Because I want to pay guys. I want to see my guys so happy they can't stand it.

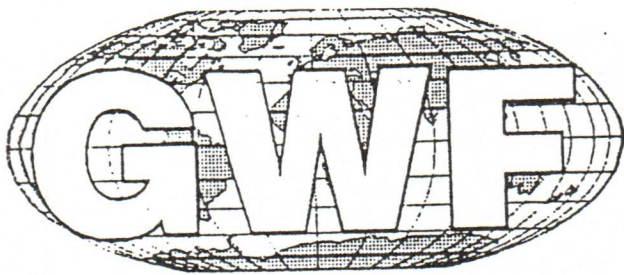
RL- Appreciate you answering that question because I know it's one you hate to hear.

EM- Well, that's life.

End of Part 1

 RAMBLINGS

Lots of stuff to talk about but first I want to touch briefly on the two most talked about topics: Flair and the steroid flap. First off, Flair. I'm simply amazed at reading letters and in talking to people that many of the hardcores want Flair back in WCW. Do all you people forget what Ric was doing in the promotion? Do you think they would use him any better? I don't know about you but I'm looking forward to seeing Ric work Japan and maybe some indies against some good talent. Better than seeing him work five minute bouts with Gigante or P.U. News.....Hulk Hogan might as well have told a fairy tale on Arsenio Hall. Wait, he did. You want to know if Titan's steroid testing will work? See if Davey Boy Smith is still around after a couple of tests. And Vince better treat the guys he uses as guinea pigs right or they'll blab to kingdom come.....It sure didn't seem to me like ababyface interview Windham gave on WCW Sat. night. Then he went to wrestle heel Black Bart or was that babyface desperado Black Bart? We'll need a scorecard soon to tell who is good and who is bad. Freebirds will turn face. They face the Hardliners in a World tag tourney bout next week. I guarentee you will neither hear of or see Badstreet (Brad Armstrong) again. Another angle WCW will drop without a word.....Lex Luger worked with Bobby Eaton at the houses last week and was told the bouts weren't that hot.....Since Barry is supposed to turn, they will say Diamond Dallas put the bounty on Pillman's mask. But why?.....Good chance Bret Hart will win the I-C strap from Hennig at SummerSlam. Since Tolos took over Perfect, Curt seems to have lost his steam.....Jake Roberts out three-four weeks with a bad neck. He showed up in Milwaukee last week just to come out and say he was hurt.....Shane McMahon ran the big show in St. Louis last week. Vince wasn't even there. Talk is he's big into the WBF and will turn most of WWF affairs over to his son.....Suncoast Pro Wrestling in Manatee on 7/20 in front of 350 saw Masked Superstar (Bob Cook) win the Florida title from Full Force when Jumbo Berretta threw in the towel. Lou Perez also won the Southern Title from Nasty Ned Brady.....UWF taped in Fort Lauderdale on 7/20 in front of 200 fans. Was told it was terrible. Cactus Jack advertised on billboard outside but wasn't even there. more Ramblings on pages 5 and 8.

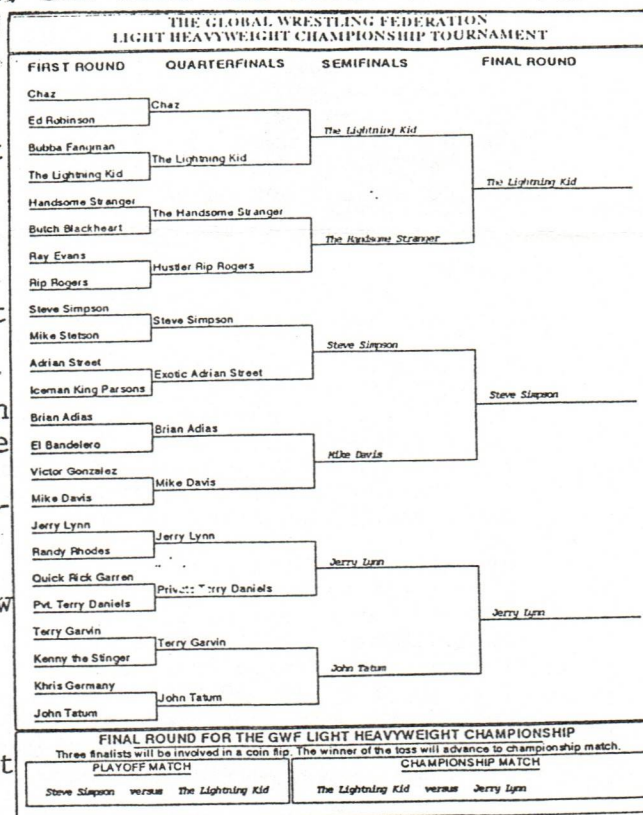


Global Wrestling Federation viewpoints

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

THE GLOBAL SPORTATORIUM (Dallas, Texas) 07-12-91. GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV TAPINGS OF "MAJOR LEAGUE WRESTLING" AND "ESPN SUPERCARD". MLW 07-27-91: Adrian Street over El Badolero..Big Bully Busick over The Unknown Jobber..Rip Rogers & Makhan Singh over Jeff Gaylord & Chico Cabello..The Lightning Kid over Jimmy James..The Patriot over Joh Tatum..NEWS AND NOTES: The first round of the Light Heavyweight Tournament that aired on ESPN was also taped..Buddy Landell no-showed..Lightning Kid's debut, while met with initial skepticism as Kid is about legit 195 pounds, was well received. This 19 year old is a deceptively talented worker..ATT: 700. Things are picking up.

THE GLOBAL SPORTATORIUM (Dallas, Texas) 07-13-91. GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV TAPINGS OF "MAJOR LEAGUE WRESTLING" AND "ESPN SUPERCARD". MLW 08-03-91: Mike Davis over Brian Adias..Rasta The Voodoomon over Chaz..Hot Body Rhodes over Jeff Gaylord..Rip Rogers & Makhan Singh over Bubba Fangman & Terry Daniels..Wild Bill Irwin over Skip Young..Terry Garvin over John Tatum..ESPN 07-29-91: The Lightning Kid over Chaz..The Handsome Stranger over Rip Rogers..Mike Davis over Brian Adias..07-30-91: Steve Simpson over Adrian Street..Jerry Lynn over Terry Daniels..John Tatum over Terry Garvin..07-31-91: The Lightning Kid over The Handsome Stranger..Steve Simpson over Mike Davis..Jerry Lynn over John Tatum..08-01-91: Jerry Lynn over Steve Simpson..The Lightning Kid over Jerry Lynn..NEWS AND NOTES: The ESPN shows composed the second, third, and final rounds of the GWF Light Heavyweight Tournament. The Lightning Kid's final round match against Jerry Lynn (who received a bye into the actual final as result of a coin toss) was a *** $\frac{1}{2}$ match. Kid's leap from the top turnbuckle, over the ringside area area, and onto the Globaldome stage was seventeen feet legit..The first round of the tournament was slow due to all the green guys, however the second round and on was super..Unfortunately, Buddy Landell will not be back. He no-showed Friday night but did show up Saturday night. But, no shows are no-no's and Buddy was let go. I hope he can eventually come back because he is as pleasant to be around as he is to watch work..The next set of tapings are set for July 26 and 27..While looking through the 3/4" video library at Andrews Entertainment, I discovered a tape labelled "Von Erich Home Movies 1971". Seeing Kerry, Mike, Kevin, David & Chris as preteens frolicking by the pool really made me feel sorry for those guys. They just looked like nice little kids enjoying the benefits of childhood in the video, but we all know how they turned out. Though stupidity played a major part in their downfall, the tragedy that befell that family was tremendous. Love them or hate them, the Von Erich's have had it tough. But, they WERE once just little kids out by the pool. Sad..ATT: 700



Yes, we're all posting bets on which dies first- USWA or WCW. In less than a week, Pedit- C-note's Global seems to be number two, with WCW coming in dead third in terms of being a "major" promotion. I say this because NJPW booker, Riki Choshu also has "seen" enough. He was angry enough at the goings on with WCW last March and was waiting for them to screw up so he could say I told you so's. Now with no Flair to offer, no way for Fujinami to "regain face" in light of what happened the last two goarounds; no Scott Steiner for the August 3 day spectacular at Budokan August 8-10, Choshu may choose frequent NJPW performer Bill "Ax" Eadie and his Global Fed as a brother promotion. And WCW has itself to blame for screwing up this most important tie-in with New Japan.

And yes, WCW offered more and more C-notes to Sid, and less to real wrestler Flair. WCW can cover-up and say, "we wish him luck" publicly and "enough of the high-priced prima donnas" privately. But this loss is staggering, and looks to be the final nail in WCW's coffin- at least until the Crockett's take it back and try to breath CPR into the beast, if you will.

Flair might have been getting stale- but it was WCW who held him back-both on repetitive interviews, and repetition in the ring. He continually putover JFD and other stiff- making them look like "wrestlers." He carried others in tags, he sacrificed his appearance and integrity, and took all the heat for the booking months. Chris Zavisa said it best when he said, look how WCW aged Flair in just 3 years. 87 and 88 interviews show a youthful Flair, 91 showed the weight of the world(er-"world" championship wrestling) much like the Jimmy Carter aging process during his presidency. What WCW lost was not just the best going, or the best U.S. performer, bar none- but a team motivator, a Clash or PPV savior, the inspiration and driving force for it's lesser workers- in short, the franchise. WCW employees have said, no man should be the focal point around which the whole company is built around- but like it, or don't like it, that's the gospel. Crowds and buy rates will drop even further, more desperate angles and gimmicky guys will be tried. Injuries will abound amidst the green workers, morale will sink still further, new bookers will come and go. It is speculated that pay scales may sink to "Jarrettesque" levels prior to WCW either being sold, going bankrupt, becoming an AWA-like booking office, or the smartest solution- a company producing only tv and a few ppv's a year. Management can say Flair was in the mains, and drew fewer crowds- but look who he was against- Gigante, JFD, Sting instead of talented workers like Windham, Eaton, Scott or Rick on regular house shows or ppvs consistantly. Management can even say Flair didn't do bangup numbers against Steamer or Funk- but those house show and ppv numbers prove otherwise against his yearlong funk of foes. Only occasionally did Pillman pop up against Flair on a house show, and those shows drew. If Ron Simmons had been nurtured properly, he could've done good business against Flair. Flair also gave that company Legitimacy-Hansen and Leon White and NJPW probably would not have bothered, without his strong presence. Flair is better off without them, and their abuse.

Dennis Coralluzo will apparently outdraw any normal, non-ppv WCW house show when he tries to put on Flair vs Funk, I Quit 2, with Buddy Rogers in Flair's corner, and Corny in Terry's corner. All depends on when Ric starts with Titan, and the outcome of Dennis' THE BACK VS BACKLUND(Terry Funk vs Bob Backlund) main fares, and how Terry's back feels. Hey, that IWF was pretty good for a first timer. Shows appear on California's PSN and if Mansfield can either take himself off commentary, or cut the cliches- it might provide some entertaining tv. We give Big Thumbs Up to both Global and IWF, and the Doctor's Big Thumbs Down to WCW for "the Last Straw Screwup." If Turner needs his biggest tax WCW writeoff to date(to help with the impending marriage), he's got it. Thank God Flair refused to do jobs all over to Dustin- this nepotism crap has got to stop. Guess Flair herd , er saw enough dust, and walked that aisle, er Rhode. Hope he, Steamboat and Piper party it up and save Titan from it's own chemical shortcomings.

More Ramblings

Ned Brady will no longer be able to use the Repo Man gimmick in the IWF. Vince got wind of the angle and trademarked the name. Big Bully Nick Busich' has a tryout on 7/29 in Worcester with Titan. Those last two items could be related.....Next IWF taping is 7/27. Regular ring announcer Chris Quallman will be away on business so yours truly steps in for the mic duties..... Lots of talk of Eddie Gilbert returning to WCW as a heel manager. Gilbert's reason for coming back may be to be there when Dusty hits the road so he can step in and take the booking job. Don't know why he'd want it at this point..... Virgil will be winning the million dollar belt from DiBiase at SummerSlam. Big deal. Why hasn't Ted defended it since he had it. What about the thirty day rule?.....Hey, Dave Meltzer, inquiring minds want to know why you blew through that offer WCW made Randy Savage without a comment.....Riki Choshu may cut ties with WCW since Flair is gone and Scott Steiner is out until January.... Global Wrestling Federation shows on ESPN are no doubt more enjoyable than watching Tom Prichard vs. Bill Dundee 90 times but so far the bouts have been pretty lackluster. Best so far was Landell vs. Adrian Street. Funny, Jeff Siegel, Klon, and myself saw those two work a show at Patrick Air Force Base and it was one of the worst bouts I ever saw. (Last year.).....I enjoy Scott Hudson and Craig Johnson as a team. Hard to believe Scott hasn't even been doing this a year. The only gripe I have is the constant "A main event anywhere in the country." But hey, it's part of their job.

WITH

KLON

The spatial time flux converter is in mode 0.6 , so I bring you the only wrestling column written under the crimson red sky.

On Monday July 1, 1991 our world changed and we are all part of the change. The departure of Ric Flair from the Turner Wrestling is the completion of the final battle in the long, drawn-out war to change the face of pro wrestling forever. There are only two minor battles left to be fought, the promotions of Don Owens in Portland and Jerry Jarrett in Memphis are all that is left of our old world. These two groups are only mere shadows of there former selves, so it really is a mute point. Ric Flair was lone symbol of what remained of the old days. Look at how the AWA went out, with a gasp and a sigh and not a single fan caused a stir. This was one of the "Big 3 " wrestling groups with a world hvyt champion and world tag team champions that was noted throughout the world. By the time Verne Gagne gave up the ghost, no one gave a flying frisbee. As the old hardcore fans get bored or just plain fed up with the WWF and WCW, they will float away like a helium balloons into the sky, never to be seen again. The outcry to the firing of Ric Flair is the scream of the death of the old days.

I was personally looking forward to coming home each day and checking out the Global tv show. I think that Scott Hudson is doing a great job and is trying very hard to walk the line between company man and newsletter tell-it-like-it is guy. I am less entralled with the commentary of Craig Johnson who sounds like he is trying to talk through a megaphone all the time, very unnatural to this ol boy's ears. The bouts themselves have been fair to poor, but I was not expecting very much. The interviews from Makham Singh, Jim Cornette, and Buddy Landel have been great !!! The bad news is that Joe Pedicino or someone in his group did not use good business sense by firing Buddy Landel. I realize a point needed to be made but you don't fire a top personality (with so little top talent out there) suspend maybe or just issue a general warning to the entire group. Major error from Joe Pedicino but all in all I am personally enjoying the Global presentations.

If you have a couple of extra bucks in your pocket, send a card to Ted Turner and one to Jack Petrick. I would suggest the sympathy type cards you send when someone dies. "Sorry to hear about the death of your wrestling group etc etc etc ". This may sound flaky but it made me feel better. I marked my envelope (with a red pen) personal and confidential. Later gang, until New Japan starts an American group

KLON

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

by,
Marianne Ryan

Another month, another column, and plenty to write about. First off, the steroid trial. Was it just me, or did anyone else find it amusing that Roddy Piper, Rick Martel and Brian Blair were among the wrestlers that testified. None of them seem to be poster boys for steroid abuse. I think it would have been much more interesting if, say, the Ultimate Warrior, the Warlord and Davey Boy Smith had testified.

The way I look at it, the press had a field day blaming the wrestlers, and in the process, managed to make people forget that it was the doctor who was on trial. If anyone is really to blame, try Vince McMahon for promoting the "bigger is better" attitude. If his wrestlers wanted to succeed, this was merely something they had to do.

While his announcement of beefed-up drug tests sounds promising, it will be quite obvious if he really means any of it. Let's face it, if some of these guys stay the size they are, you know the tests are not doing what they are intended to do.

I'm still in shock over everything that has transpired in WCW lately. No matter how you look at it, Jim Herd dumped Ric Flair. What else would you call it when they made an offer they knew he would refuse. Ric Flair is still a formidable opponent. And for many, he will always be associated with the NWA/WCW. By placing their future in the hands of Lex Luger, the WCW is a disaster waiting to happen. For one, who is he going to wrestle? The obvious choice would be Sting, but the top brass doesn't seem too eager to try that. And even if they do, how long can they sell that to people. Not to mention what would happen if either of them decided to seek fame and fortune elsewhere. Time will tell, but something tells me Jim Herd will live to regret this in a big way.

July 13 in Milwaukee, Jake Roberts showed up to tell fans he has reinjured his neck. Depending on how bad it is, he may only be out a few weeks. In his absence, Bret Hart took on, and beat Earthquake. I guess this is one way of gearing up for his match against Curt Hennig at SummerSlam.

The following day, the WWF held Wrestlefest at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. While I have no idea how big the crowd was, I know backstage, everyone seemed happy about the number of people in the stands. Daring people to call him biased, Randy Savage arrived with Hulk Hogan, whose match Randy was to referee later that evening. By the way, Hogan won. Sapphire came by to say hello to everyone. It was the first time she had turned up in over six months. With no plans for her, she got the ok from the office to pursue other offers, and this past week-end, she made an appearance at a Windy City Wrestling match here in Chicago.

Surprisingly, Vince himself was not present, as he sent son Shane to fill in. The atmosphere was very laid back, despite the fact that this was being taped for Coliseum Video. As a guest of Sensational Sherri, I got to sit in the first base dugout. This came in handy for running back and forth between the dugout and Sherri's dressing room, which was in reality, the visiting team's locker room. Sherri's on her own for the next week, as her Million Dollar Man is taking a holiday overseas. Sherri herself will get a much needed break right after SummerSlam.

And speaking of SummerSlam, which do you think came first, the slogan "A match made in heaven, a match made in hell", or the actual decision to have the wedding and the handicap match. And who among you isn't excited about the Bushwackers-Natural Disasters match? If this is indicative of how the rest of the matches are going to go, it may not be worth going after all, unless...

One interesting SummerSlam scenario making the rounds involves the wedding of the Macho Man and Miss Elizabeth. What if Ric Flair decides that he should have the first lady of wrestling for himself. After all, he's used to having beautiful woman around him. What better way to break in to the WWF, get Randy back in the ring, and start the hottest feud of the fall, all in one move. Now it's only speculation, but wouldn't it be great?

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

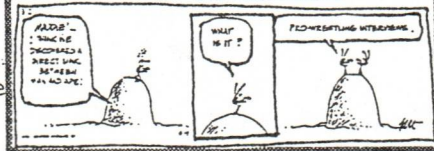
GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

SPARKLES RINK (Canton, Georgia) 07-14-91. GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING TV TAPINGS FOR AIR THE WEEKENDS OF JULY 27, 1991, THROUGH AUGUST 17, 1991.. 07-27-91: Chick Donovan over Moose Mahoney..Chris Walker & Fabian over The Flies..Big Bully Busick over Tim Strong..08-03-91: Festus over Ron Davis.. Brute Force over Jimmy Rogers & Mike Roberts..Steve Lawler over Fabian.. 08-10-91: Johnny Dare over Golden Eagle..Mad Dog Joe over Damian Rogers.. Farmer Boy Ellis over Jake Jackson..Brute Force over The Avengers..08-17-91: Festus and Mad Dog Joe no decision..Steve Lawler & Big Bully Busick over Awesome T.C. & T.J. Dollar..Chris Walker & Fabian over Brute Force..**NEWS AND NOTES:** The groundwork was laid to change Fabian into The Handsome Stranger. Fabian (Mark Bagwell) challenged Lawler to a "Loser Leaves Town" match which Fabian will lose only to re-appear as The Handsome Stranger.. Steve Lawler is beginning a new gimmick which involves him becoming a type of "Judge". During interviews, Lawler quotes sections, subsections, paragraphs, etc..Scotty the Body is still around, however his current shoulder injury prevented him from working. Also, an aggravation may delay his eventual entry in the GWF..Van Hammer, who made a impressive debut over the last 4 weeks, is probably WCW bound. He is a former roommate of Johnny B. Badd (Mark Merro)..On the 7-27 show, Joe Pedicino resigns from the play-by-play position and turns it over to yours truly. GAW commissioner Gordon Clement then introduces the new color commentator, Steven DeTruth (Steve Prazak). DeTruth did a great job in the heel commentator role..During the Festus / Mad Dog Joe no decision on the 8-17 show, Clement enters the ring to attempt to separate the two. As Joe stalks Clement and prepares to pound the GAW commissioner, Festus shoves him aside and is pummeled by Joe..Not to pick on a guy who just graduated from the Georgia Academy of Demolition and Mayhem, but Famer Boy Ellis is to ringwork what Barry Bonds is to humility. But, at least he's green. That's a good excuse..Billy Black and Joel Deaton are still in Japan but will return for the next set of tapings. Deaton is the current Georgia Heavyweight Champion while Black holds the T.V. Title. The Tag Team Champs are Brute Force..Brute Force's manager is The Beautiful Barbie..ATT: 280. Biggest crowd ever for GAW TV tapings.

MY THOUGHTS ON THE RIC FLAIR SITUATION: Let's just put this as plainly and simply as possible: Ric Flair was inarguably the greatest wrestler of the 1980's. There is a strong argument that Ric Flair is the greatest wrestler in the history of professional wrestling. If Ric Flair had deteriorated into a Junkyard Dog-type performer who let his physical condition and ring ability go to hell, he still would have deserved far, far better treatment than he was given by Jim Herd and Dusty Rhodes. Herd's position in this scenario is bad, but, Rhodes actions are nothing short of vengeful whinings by a fat, past-his-prime, narcissistic, cruel bum.For Rhodes to even entertain the thought that he is worthy to stand in judgement of Ric Flair is laughable. What brings this point home with a bullet is that WCW will go on without Ric Flair but with Johnny B. Badd, The Desparadoes, and P.N. News. Sure, everyone knew that one day Ric Flair would leave active wrestling competition, I just expected him to ride off into the sunset, not be left standing at the train station while the engine kicks itself into reverse. Flair may one day return to WCW (I doubt it), but if he does, it will not be same. The damage is done Rhodes. Thanks a lot. So long for now Nature Boy. The cream ALWAYS rises to the top.....

THE LAST WORD...

FROM THE "HAR-HAR HARDEE HAR-HAR" DEPARTMENT..



Plugs

Before getting to some plugs, I went to the dog track the other day and one of the dogs names was "Ichiban Sushi". The owner was Jack Hammeroyd. Hmmm. Wonder if Mullins is into dogs?....Jeff Siegel has started a wrestling call in spot on WLMK-FM (104.5) in Chicago during morning drive time. Depending on response, it could be expanded so you people in Chi-Town, listen to the Jeffster....Evan Ginzburg of P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364 is offering a free issue of "Wrestling Then & Now" with a S.A.S.E. until Labor Day....Ted Field, Jr of 924 Main St. Apt. 35, Woburn, MA 01801 has over 600 tapes for sale. He's also looking for AC/DC and KIX concerts on audio or video tape....Lenis Sargent of 12 Spring St., Gainesville, GA 30501 is looking for a copy of the SWA card in Tampa that was held SuperBrawl weekend. He's also looking for the tape that had Mike Graham with a blade in his hand and Kendall Windham falling off a horse etc. that we watched in someone's hotel room that Saturday....Jeff Cohen of 50 Shelley Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023 has a tape list available with a S.A.S.E and also is offering issue #10 of his innovative Fantasy Federation newsletter for a \$1.00 plus he'll throw in a back issue.

 BASH BANTER

Okay, I've eaten enough crow. Last issue I said Lex and Windham would have the match of their lives at the Bash. Boy was I wrong. In what was easily the worst WCW PPV in a while, Barry and Lex's match was no better than *** if that. But lets' start with comments from top to bottom of the card..... You knew as soon as Jim Ross said you could win the scaffold match by capturing your opponents flag how it was going to end. The problem was no one knew the bout was over since Eaton didn't walk to his corner. Or was that not the condition? Who knows. You can't fault this match because what can you do up there. Fault Dusty for booking it.....They did have awesome camera shots though for the bout.....Arn Anderson is still tops on the mic in this sport.... Zenk vs. Stud was a surprise. It was alot better than I expected....Stud looked more like Scott Hall here than he has since he's come aboard.....Send Eric Bishoff back to the AWA dungeon. He's terrible. Like Louie Fortuna said to me, "The guy is an AWA flunkie.".....Glad Ron Simmons pinned Oz. Hope he heads back down that yellow brick road.....Gibson vs. Morton had lots of rest holds and Ricky working on the knee but I still enjoyed the bout.....Hey, Dustin won the six man elimination bout. What a surprise. Actually this match was pretty good. Brad Armstrong puts fire in these Bird matches now. Loved Dustin's finish where he bulldogged Garvin the same time he dropkicked Oliver. Good timing.....Ross's miscue of the night, "Flying Brian starting out on Johnny B. Badd." Then he tried to cover by saying Yellow Dog's moves look like Pillman. Like no one knows.....Matt Borne worked his butt off trying to make his bout with Black Blood passable. But where did this feud come from?.....What was the point of having the midgets come out with Gigante? WCW always has the most meaningless props or angles.....I almost fell asleep during the Nikita-Sting match. A chain bout with no blood. When they both touched three corners I knew it would be a screwy ending....."We want Flair"chants started before the main event....which started before the mixed tag. Great, don't even showcase your main event. Is it because management doesn't think it's strong enough without Flair in it? Even so, still a stupid move. What a cheap looking belt. The chyron spelled Barry's last name wrong, it said, "Windam".....It was real smart showing the crowd chanting "We want Flair." And take note WCW, they weren't all newsletter readers either so don't blame them.....If they tried to turn Luger here, it was pretty lame. First, he was working with a heel. Second, how do the fans know what Race said to Luger? The bout wasn't that good, Luger didn't seem to care that he won the belt. Probably felt the luster was gone since he didn't beat Flair for it. WCW's pain was to have Flair come out with Race if he had shown up and lost in Macon. But why sub Hughes. Lex, Hughes, and Race will form the "Alliance". Can't wait. I guess Herd's job hunting will now hit overdrive.....All Missy fans of America are in mourning due to the dying of her blond locks to black. She looked like Hell..... Did you see Dick Murdoch haul off on that fan for trying to stop the Hardliners from kidnapping Missy. What happened in back in the locker room? Whatever, she probably enjoyed it.....Wouldn't it have been better if they kidnapped Rick and left Missy alone with Arn and Paul E.?....Major league thumbs down and I don't even want to hear that Flair would have saved this show.

 CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Meadowlands Arena (WCW) E. Rutherford, NJ July 3, 1991
 Correspondent: Andy King

1) Freebirds & Badstreet over Desperados when Badstreet pinned Deadeye Dick Culley after a DDT in 8:38. 2) Big Josh hit Terry Taylor with his axhandle and scored a pin at 8:00. Taylor a sub for Spivey. 3) Dustin Rhodes beat Richard Morton via DQ when Mr. Hughes interferred at 5:33. 4) Tom Zenk small packaged Dallas Page to beat Diamond Stud (Makes sense to WCW.) in 5:57. 5) P.N. News & Missy Hyatt beat Arn Anderson & Paul E. Dangerously when Missy pinned Paul e. after News splashed him in 7:07. 6) Bobby Eaton and Steve Austin went to a ten minute draw. 7) Hardliners beat Rick Steiner & Tom Zenk when Murdoch pinned Zenk in 10:23. 8) Lex Luger, Sting, Yellow Dog, & El Gigante over Barry Windham, Nikita Koloff, One Man Gang, & Kevin Sullivan in a War Games that went 16:40. Sully a sub for Flair. He submitted to the Giant's claw to end it. Andy predicts WWF will have building back by year end.

USF Sundome (WWF) Tampa, FL July 13, 1991
 Correspondent: Paul Spiegel

1) Koko Ware beat Pat Tanaka. (Can't believe it.) 2) Animal over Brian Knobbs when he threw Jimmy Hart on top of Knobbs and pinned both. 3) Greg Valentine over Col. Mustafa via DQ. 4) Rockers beat Power & Glory. 5) Warlord and Kerry Von Erich went to a double count out. 6) Big Boss Man pinned The Mountie. 7) Hulk Hogan over Sgt. Slaughter in a Desert Storm match. ATT: 5,500

Bash

What do you think of the little twist concerning Lex Luger as WCW champ? Did Harley Race purchase Mr. Hughes or is Lex Luger now a part of the York Foundation? Is Barry Windham going to turn? I will say this, the U.S. belt looks alot better than the belt Luger held up after he pinned Windham. They better come up with a better belt than that for a world champion.

Mike Pochuski
Mohnton, PA

RL- If Flair hadn't been fired he was the one to come to the ring with Race, not Hughes. They were to be called the Alliance. (Flair, Race, and Luger) So I guess now it's Hughes in there. Windham will be turned as he's booked against Lex at alot of Bashes at the houses. That belt was one of the U.S. tag belts. That's why it looked terrible.

Pedicino

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Joe Pedicino good luck with the Global Wrestling Federation. I would also like to thank him for all the wrestling action he has provided for the fans of Georgia.

At Georgia All-Star events, Joe always takes time out to talk to the wrestling fans and listen to their opinions. He and Bonnie make countless public appearances at grand openings and benefits.

One thing that Joe has done that I especially like is that he has brought the wrestlers closer to the fans. At any Georgia All-Star event, fans can go up and talk to the wrestlers, have pictures taken and get autographs. Something that is almost impossible to do at WCW/WWF wrestling events.

Joe is a true gentleman and again I wish him all the luck in the world.

Gary Lynch
Fayetteville, GA

Berzerker

The Berzerker fits well with the WWF, but it seems to this fan that Vinnie wants to make him out to be Bruiser Brody. I enjoy seeing him every time he has a match over the airwaves. He has a great gimmick. Every other Whiff star uses some simple pinfall or submission hold to win a match. What does Viking/Berzerker use? Why a count out of course. Somehow I can see Berzerker getting "civilized". His new name,? The Non-Berzerker. Why was his billing changed from Viking to Berzerker anyway? I don't buy whiff mags explanation where Fuji states that he took a good look at Nord and realized that he wasn't a Viking but a Berzerker. Excuse me Master Snoozeme, but a Berzerker is the most violent type of Viking. They're the same people you idiot.

John Herron
Marble Hill, MO

RL- Vince I'm sure isn't telling Nord to act like Brody. Nord was one of Bruiser's best friends. He was so shaken up when Brody got killed that he spent a few days in the hospital. He does Brody's style to honor him. I love to print letters like this to keep the smarts on their toes.

WCW

I'm still shocked about Flair leaving WCW. I spoke with a friend involved in New Jersey athletic commission. The gate on the opening Bash was \$87,000. To break even in the Meadowlands you need \$100,000 gate.

This deal with Flair has got to be more business related than a Dusty vendetta, though it will appear that Dusty's the prick in the matter.

Goodhart already has Flair booked for a September appearance. Then again, Joel fancies himself as the P.T. Barnum of Philly. John Arezzi of Pro Wrestling Spotlight on L.I. radio is bringing in Flair on 8/25 which is the second day of the convention.

I gave the Meadowlands card a thumbs down. Best match on card was Bobby Eaton vs. Steve Austin. Biggest pop came in War Games when Sullivan hit all the faces in the groin with the timekeepers hammer.

Rich Kraemer
Lavalette, NJ

Question

What happened to Blackjack Mulligan & Kendall Windham?
Bob Luedke
Passaic, NJ

RL- Mulligan and son were busted during a sting operation by the FBI. They were caught delivering counterfeit money to a hotel room. They were sentenced to 18 months in prison and should be out soon to lend Barry some money.

and finally - 7/21 Orlando Sentinel had a column on the front page of the sports section concerning Hogan & Steroids. Typical sportswriter attitude though cynical & sarcastic towards the business in general instead of taking Vince & Hulk to task